



State of Louisiana

Department of Environmental Quality



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DEQ ISSUES NOTICE OF POTENTIAL PENALTY AND ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER TO MOTIVA NORCO

The Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality has issued a Notice of Potential Penalty (NOPP) for air violations and an Administrative Order for information concerning existing permits at the Motiva Enterprises, L.L.C. Norco Manufacturing Complex.

The NOPP was issued for "alleged serious violations", according to Bruce Hammatt, Administrator of Enforcement for DEQ. Among the alleged violations are: 1) Motiva's failure to adequately report emissions from manufacturing component sources at the Norco complex. DEQ found some of the emissions during routine environmental compliance inspections, while others were verified based on citizen complaints. Additional emissions were recently self-reported by the Norco facility covering a three-year period from 1996 to 1998; 2) Motiva's failure to properly tag and repair leaks in a timely manner; and 3) Motiva's failure to properly use a vapor recovery system prior to venting into the atmosphere during a barge loading operation.

The Administrative Order requires Motiva to present detailed information concerning the reporting of pertinent data in its quest for an air permit following the explosion of the "Cat Cracker" in 1988. "We are asking for additional details to verify Motiva's compliance status relative to their permitted emissions," according to DEQ's Hammatt.

"These items and others contained in DEQ's notice to Motiva are very serious and we expect full cooperation from the facility on addressing these environmental concerns," Hammatt says.

Motiva has ten days in which to respond to DEQ's Notice of Potential Penalty and 45 days to respond to DEQ's Administrative Order.